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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE PCT NATIONAL STAGE APPLICATION OF

BRÜNGGER ET AL.

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO: PCT/EP2004/008798

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FOR: UBIQUITIN-SPECIFIC PROTEASE

Mail Stop: PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-referenced patent application, please enter the following preliminary amendments:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the Listing of Claims, which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this paper.

Appendix contains replacement Abstract.